

REINTEGRATION OF USARAF MEMBERS RETURNING FROM LIBERIA

KEY POINTS

- No U.S. Soldiers have been infected with the virus; the overall risk of contracting Ebola for members deployed to OUA is very low.
- It is important that all individuals follow instructions in order to further decrease risk and preserve health.
- USARAF members are not providing patient care or services to Ebola individuals in Liberia: USARAF is focused on building the infrastructure to support the intergovernmental and international effort.
- Individuals will be medically screened prior to leaving Liberia.
- Upon their return, they will report to the clinic for re-evaluation and additional education.
- They will report twice daily for 21 days to Bn for temperature and symptom screening.
- Medical monitoring is terminated if individuals remain symptom free during the 21 day monitoring period.
- A post deployment health re-assessment will be given to the members within 90-120 days of their return.
- USARAF Soldiers had NO contact with Ebola patients in Liberia and are at extremely low risk for developing the disease.

SITUATION

The **overall risk** of contracting Ebola to individuals deployed in support of OUA **is very low**. Liberia, like many other countries, has other medical risks that people have a higher potential of contracting (i.e. malaria). It is **important that all individuals follow instructions** to further decrease the likelihood of contracting any disease during this deployment.

To date, **no U.S. soldiers have been infected with the virus while supporting OUA in Africa** and we are working hard to stay on that path to minimize risk to soldiers, families and community members which is the first step to ensuring everyone's safety. **USARAF members are NOT providing Ebola patient care** in Liberia. **USARAF is focused on building the infrastructure** to assist the country of Liberia. This is an international and inter-governmental effort to handle this disease outbreak and control the spread of the disease.

RISK

As the AFRICOM Commander said earlier this month in a news conference, "We are **assessing risk based on servicemembers' mission and location**, and providing training to match their circumstances and potential for exposure to Ebola Virus Disease. We are **implementing procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk of transmission** as servicemembers go about their daily missions while deployed, **including the use of personal protective equipment, hygiene protocols, and monitoring**. In the end, our equipment, training, procedures, and - most of all - **the discipline of our leaders and our force will help us to ensure that our team accomplishes its mission without posing a risk to our nation and fellow citizens.**"

REINTEGRATION PROCEDURES

Prior to individuals returning from Liberia to the Vicenza area, **medical screening will be conducted** to ensure the health of the individual. The individual will be given temperature log sheet to **monitor their temperature twice daily for 21 days**. The medic at battalion will perform this check once daily at 1700 hours and the individual will perform the other check in the morning and report results once daily. Members will also be given a phone number to a provider who is on call to assist with medical concerns.

Once back in Vicenza **USARAF members will report to the health clinic**, immediately upon arrival from Liberia, as long as they are feeling well and have not demonstrated a fever. If they return over a weekend or late in the evening and are not feeling well then they MUST call the On Call provider. If someone does develop the symptoms: DO NOT PANIC! Remember, **many of the symptoms of Ebola look like many other diseases** and **the likelihood of it being Ebola are very low to U.S. personnel** who are not having physical contact with Ebola patients.

When seen at the health clinic, **the individuals will be re-evaluated, receive some further instruction about the disease process and reviewing the symptoms to report**. They will **report twice daily for 21 days to the unit for temperature and symptom screening**. This ensures that all individuals remain healthy and are monitored as required by medical protocol. During this time **they must remain in the greater Vicenza area** (no travel greater than about an hour and a half drive). So a day trip to Asiago is fine, travelling to Rome or Camp Darby is not. At the end of the 21 day period **as long as the individuals remain without symptoms the medical monitoring is completed** and they can be re-assured that they do not have Ebola. **90-120 days after returning from the deployment** the individual will need to have a **post-deployment health assessment** completed at the health clinic.